

# The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

February 2014

## 7 THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY

**1. Live and work** to reach others each day as if you knew the world were going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! (Read 2 Peter 3:1-12).

**2. Be as enthusiastic** about the church and its services as you would be if there were an overflowing crowd each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflow crowd!

**3. Count your blessings.** Make a list of things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one as you pray in your quiet place. This will help you to be grateful (Philippians 4:6). It will also help you to realize your dependence on God (Acts 17:24-25, 28; John 15:5).

**4. Make and maintain a list of your faults.** And pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are and how very much we really do need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others (James 5:16; Galatians 6:1).

**5. Keep a quiet time.** Set aside 30 minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible Study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God you want to spend some time alone with Him. (Psalms 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1) First century Christians kept an "hour of prayer" (Acts 13:1).

**6. Visit someone for Christ each week.** Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian.

**7. Reach another person.** Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to attend. The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to. Matt. 5:12-15; James 5:20; Daniel 12:3. There are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible Study, morning worship and evening worship on Sundays and Bible Study on Wednesday, and 30 minutes 6 days a week in Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and conduct an hour long study once a month you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week, leaving you 158.

## God's Love Letter

A staple Valentine candy from my childhood is the conversation hearts. They were chalky and you really couldn't tell what the flavor was supposed to be. They just weren't that good, but...they had those little sayings stamped on them. (When Sweet Tarts started making conversation hearts for Valentine's Day, it was a God thing! So much better than the chalky variety that had more in common with Tums than with candy.)

A heart for just about every type of friendship. For the budding romantics there was 'Be Mine' or 'True Love.' If the relationship has progressed but you just didn't have a way with words you could give them 'Marry Me.' The proper response is the 'I Do' heart.

Just friends? How about 'You're Cool' or 'High Five?' Want to meet someone? There is a heart that simply says 'Hello.'

There are a lot of ways to express love. Some are more appropriate and more effective than others. Think of the first grader who slugs a girl because he likes her!

The greatest expression of love comes from the One who is love. **1 John 4:7-8** says *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**"*

How did we come to know that God, who is so much higher, so much deeper, so much holier than we are loves us? He told us in His word. God's word, the Bible, is His love letter to humanity. We find out all we need to know about God's love in the scriptures.

How long has God loved us? Since the beginning of time. *the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. **Jeremiah 31:3***

How long will God continue to love us? *Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! **1 Chronicles 16:34***

How strong is God's love for us? *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:38-39***

What if I'm bad? Will God still love me? God used His prophet Hosea as an object lesson to show us how God loves us. (God has some pretty serious object lessons!) In the Old Testament book of Hosea, God tells the prophet of the same name to go and find a prostitute and

make her his wife. The point: Israel acted like a prostitute when it came to worshiping the one true God by chasing after false gods.

So Hosea finds Gomer (Moms, don't name your little girls Gomer...please!). He marries her and they have children. He really marries her and they really have children together. This is not merely a story with a moral. God's prophet lived out this object lesson so we could get a picture of God's true love for us.

After a time, Gomer leaves and goes back to her life of prostitution. "Fine! I tried to love you, but now I'm done! I'm washing my hand of you. I hope you rot..." You get the picture. Isn't that how most of us would react after rescuing someone from such a terrible life and then having that person turn his or her back on you? Not God. God loves us too much for that.

He commands Hosea to go find Gomer and bring her back home. He finds her and has to pay for her. She had somehow indentured herself to a man who probably made his living by owning several prostitutes. Hosea buys her back; he pays for the very woman he rescued in the first place and who left him and their children to return to the cesspool from which she came. Hosea tells his wife, "From now on, you will remain faithful to me and I will be faithful to you."

This is the Old Testament picture that points to the reality of how deeply God loves us. God created us in His image and He is like a loving husband to His creation. Every time we sin, it is like we have returned to prostitution. So God bought us back.

*... You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. **1 Peter 1:18-19*** God's love letter was personified by the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. If you want to know how much God really loves you and how far God would go to show you that love and bring you back into a right relationship with Him, just look at Jesus.

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. *...Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:6-8***

How much does God love you? Imagine Jesus handing you a little heart candy. As you open your palm, you read the words, "Worth dying for."

*Mike*

## RECIPE SWAP

### HISSY FIT DIP

8 oz. cream cheese  
16 oz. sour cream  
8 oz. velveeta cheese, cubed in small chunks  
1 lb. Italian sausage, cooked and drained  
1 T. Worcestershire sauce  
¼ c. green onion, finely chopped  
¼ tsp. curry powder  
1 tsp. onion powder  
Dash of garlic salt  
1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 350\*. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and mix well. Once mixed, transfer to a baking dish and bake for 60 minutes. Serve with crackers, chips, toasted bread, or veggies.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**OUR SOLDIERS:** Jacob Mitchell, Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Ryan Myers, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Heuertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Steve Grove, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons, Ruth Churchill

June Dedeke needs prayers.  
John Schonfeldt, Adam's father is in ICU at St. Lukes not doing very well  
Kaylee Clausen, Shelby's sister, has an appointment at Mayo about kidney transplant  
Aisha Dively's mom Brenda had surgery last week  
C.R. Beckwith- new to area and in need of work  
Donna Johnston  
Darlene House  
Travis Toy

**COPIES OF THE SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD UPON REQUEST:** If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at [www.valleyfallsc.org](http://www.valleyfallsc.org).

**POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS:** This will be a special offering every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday during church. The money will be split between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund

**RECYCLING:** We have a recycling box beside the copier in the office.

**COLLECTING FOR ALPHA:** Alpha Christian Children's Home can use Campbell soup UPC labels and lids, Best Choice UPC labels and General Mills Box Top Symbols coupons (Box Tops for Education.) We will have a box in the hallway outside the nursery under the mailboxes.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 JODI WATKINS  
6 Dennis Tichenor  
7 Vera Welborn  
11 June Dedeke  
12 Jay & Carol Welborn (1965)  
13 Nathan Hawk  
David Grove  
15 Kari (Haybarker) Mitchell  
Clinton Thomas  
18 Sarah Hollis  
19 Steve & Georganna Carson (1965)  
20 Nancy Gatzemeyer  
28 Beverly Cress

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

## Serving in FEBRUARY

### Congregational Prayer:

Jay Welborn

### Scripture Readers:

2-Tichenor- 1 John 2:7-11

9- Arnold- 1 John 2:12-14

16- Thomas- 1 John 2:15-17

23- Kirby- 1 John 2:18-27

### Nursery:

2-Debbie Gerstner/Caitlyn

9-Carol Welborn/Nik

16-Linda Durand/Jackson

23-Nancy Gatzmeyer/Jarret

### Greeters/Ushers:

2-Tichenor

9-Arnold

16-Thomas

23-Kirby

### Lord's Supper Preparation:

2-Tichenor

9-Arnold

16-Thomas

23-Kirby

### Communion Table:

2-Stan, Jay

**Steve Carson**, Andy Arnold

9- Jay, Stan

**Dennis Tichenor**, Matt Branam

16- Stan, Jay

**Clint Thomas**, Jarret Mitchell

23- Jay, Stan

**Ray Mitchell**, Andy Arnold

### Musicians

Worship Leader: David Grove

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

### Church Offerings

Dec. 29-\$1616.67

Jan. 5-\$828.00

Jan. 12-\$3239.00

Jan. 19-\$2111.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you for the lovely Christmas box. What a surprise when I opened the box to see it packed with so many goodies! Everything tasted so good. Thanks again for thinking of me. Bless you. Ione Botkin

**SUPER BOWL PARTY:** We need a place willing to host the all church super bowl party. If you would be willing let Jay Welborn know.










**WOMAN'S WORLD:** The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Woman's World will be on Feb. 21-22 for more information there is a flyer on the board or you can go online at [www.mccks.edu](http://www.mccks.edu)

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The men's breakfast will be on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM.

### SISTERS OF STRENGTH (S.O.S.)-

(Mission Statement: We are a lifeline to glorify God through service to the church and community and to build personal relationships with our Christian Sisters.) We will be having our regular meeting on Feb. 8th at 9:00.

**QUARTERLY CARRY IN DINNER:** We will be having our quarterly church carry in dinner on Sunday Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bring a dish or two and enjoy the fellowship.

2014		FEBRUARY				2014	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
							
<b>2</b> 2:00 PM Service at Midland Super Bowl Party 5:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> SOS 9:00 AM 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	
<b>9</b> 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>	
<b>16</b>  10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>23</b>  Carry In Dinner 11:30 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 		

# Valley Falls Christian Church

511 Oak Street  
Valley Falls, KS 66088

Phone: 785-945-6757  
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org  
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org  
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

***You are welcome to join us!***

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **Sunday Service times:**

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM  
Worship – 10:00 AM  
Youth Group – 5:00 PM

### **Midweek Bible Study:**

Wednesday 7:00 PM

### **ACTIVITY FOLDERS**

The following folders will be placed on the table in the foyer in February.

#### **Activity Folders:**

Following is an explanation of each folder. Each folder includes what has been done in the past, but new ideas are welcomed.

**Fellowship**—this can go on all year. This folder needs a home with someone who would be interested in planning activities to include all family members. Activities might include movie nights, game nights, a pizza night, a bowling night, putt putt golf, etc. Anything a family could do together would be included.

**Sonrise Breakfast**—this is held Easter morning. The chairperson would be responsible for coordinating the times with Mike. They would be in charge of getting men volunteers to cook and donations for food items.

**Mother's Day**—responsible for planning the recognition of moms-usually during church.

**Graduate Banquet**—responsible for setting a time, place, sending out invitations, decorating and planning a little ceremony.

**Father's Day**—responsible for planning the recognition of dads-usually during church.

**Vacation Bible School**—This person would be the director who would decide on a program, organize committees, decide on dates and prepare a schedule. VBS dates need to be approved by the board. May have this year's VBS program taken care of but would still need a coordinator.

**Thanksgiving Dinner & Soup Supper**—you would be in charge of getting enough food for the church dinner, generally held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Also being prepared with decorations and dishes and other supplies. A "take out" meal is generally provided to our shut in members before we eat. The soup supper is held in January on a rotation with the other churches in the community. We generally serve soups, relishes, desserts, etc.

**Church Christmas Dinner**—This person plans where the group would be eating and making the reservations if needed. Usually held the regular meeting date of Dec. board meeting (second Wed.) Have also done as a "progressive dinner" so other options are available.

**Caroling**—you would be in charge of setting the date and organizing times, rides, and snacks afterwards.

**Christmas Program**—Responsible for deciding on the program, organizing those involved with practices, and preparing scenery if needed. Usually held at 10:00 AM the Sunday before Christmas. There are plenty of programs in the office to review and use if desired.

If you chair and activity be sure and sign the master list on the table.

We are not limited to these activities and would welcome new ways to glorify God.

There are lots of persons who are willing to help the chairperson with the activities.

Please let Donetta know details before the date so that information can be placed in the bulletin and newsletter.